

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

ACDA-19 NIC-01 DRC-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 AF-10 OIC-04

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R 161625Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7897

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2579

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PFOR, ILO, XG, SOCI

SUBJ: NORDIC TRADE UNION LEADERS APPROVE EAST-WEST LABOR CONFERENCE

REF: COPENHAGEN 2554 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. NORDIC TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (NTUC)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN COPENHAGEN ENDORSED EAST-WEST TRADE

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UNION CONFERENCE IN CONNECTION WITH ILO EUROPEAN REGIONAL MEETING

IN JANUARY. IN ADDITION, COMMITTEE ELECTED OFFICERS FOR COMING YEAR AND REMAINED SILENT ON MIDDLE EAST. END SUMMARY.

QM JOHN SVENNINGSSEN, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, GAVE LABATT RUN-DOWN ON NTUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN COPENHAGEN OCTOBER 15. MAJOR TOPIC WAS PROPOSED EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONFERENCE AND KAARE SANDEGREN, EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC) DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL WAS PRESENT FOR THAT DISCUSSION. FOLLOWING UP INFORMAL TALKS WITH SHELEPIN IN HELSINKI (REFTEL), COMMITTEE DECIDED THAT NTUF PRESIDENT THOMAS NIELSEN SHOULD FORMALLY PROPOSE AT ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN NOVEMBER THAT ALL-EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE SHOULD BE CONVENED BY INVITATION OF FOUR WORKER REPRESENTATIVES ON ILO GOVERNING BOARD, SUNDE (NORWAY), MUHR (WEST GERMANY) PLANT (GREAT BRITAIN), AND PIMENOV (SOVIET UNION).

2. ACCORDING TO CURRENT CONCEPTION EAST-WEST TRADE UNION MEETING WOULD BE TWO-DAY AFFAIR HELD ON WEEKEND DURING BREAK IN TEN-DAY ILO EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE. AGENDA IS STILL UNDECIDED QUESTION.

3. ON PARTICIPATION ISSUE, SVENNINGSSEN SAID NTUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACCEPTED IDEA THAT TRADE UNION CONFERENCE SHOULD BE MODELLED ON APARTHEID CONFERENCE HELD UNDER ILO AUSPICES LAST JUNE. HE SAID THIS IMPLIED THAT TRADE UNION FEDERATIONS IN ALL EUROPEAN ILO MEMBER STATES WOULD BE INVITED AND COMMENTED THAT EAST GERMANY WAS EXPECTED TO BECOME ILO MEMBER BEFORE JANUARY. IN VIEW OF EXPERIENCE AT APARTHEID CONFERENCE, IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT GREEK SPANISH TRADE UNION FEDERATIONS, ALTHOUGH FORMALLY INVITED, WOULD NOT ATTEND. SVENNINGSSEN ADDED THAT FRENCH FO CHAIRMAN BERGERON'S OPPOSITION TO CGT PARTICIPATION SHOULD BE MOLLIFIED BY THIS ARRANGEMENT.

4. IN OTHER BUSINESS NTUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGREED TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION OF A VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION UNTIL AFTER JANUARY EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONFERENCE.

5. THOMAS NIELSEN WAS RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT AND LENNART BODSTROM FROM SWEDISH TOC WAS ELECTED VICE PRSIDENT FOR COMING YEAR. IT WAS FURTHER DECIDED TO DISCUSS LENGTH OF TERMS FOR THESE OFFICES AT JUNE MEETING WITH PROBABILITY THAT PRESIDENCY WILL BE ROTATED EVERY TWO YEARS. IN THIS CONNECTION, SVENNINGSSEN MENTIONED THAT HE

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WOULD RESIGN IN FALL OF 1974 TO RETURN TO DANISHLO (LO INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY PEER CARLSEN IS ACTIVELY SEEKING A JOB WITH ILO).

6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DECIDED AGAINST ISSUING STATEMENT ON MIDDLE-EAST OUT OF CONSIDERATION FOR FINNS AND THEIR CURRENT DIFFICULTIES WITH USSR. SAK CHAIRMAN NILO HAMALAINEN POINTED OUT THAT A MODERATE STATEMENT-- AND FOR FINNS IT WOULD HAVE TO BE VERY MODERATE -- WOULD PROBABLY BE INTERPRETED AS AFRO-ARAB STATEMENT ELSEWHERE IN SCANDINA-

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973COPENH02579
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS CROWE
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731030/aaaaavxt.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: COPENHAGEN 2554 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2001 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORDIC TRADE UNION LEADERS APPROVE EAST-WEST LABOR CONFERENCE
TAGS: ELAB, PFOR, SOCI, XG, ILO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005